

# The Muskogee Cimeter.

Volume 6.

Muskogee, Indian Territory, Thursday October 6, 1904.

Number 1.

## At Rentville

Address Delivered by President N. A. Robinson.

### TOWNSITE CO. MEET

Ladies and Gentlemen of Rentville:—

It affords me no little degree of pleasure to stand before you for the purpose of making this, my first annual address.

Twelve months ago this beautiful site was nothing more than a common grove, today it is a well organized town. The townsite has been surveyed by the U. S. surveyor, and a blue print plat prepared, and the same is on record with other towns.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are now experimenting; it has been the custom of the Negro race to follow the foot prints of other races, but the time has come for the Negro to lay the foundation and grapple with great concerns like other people. We can now boast of several towns in Indian Territory whose foundations were laid by our people, namely: Grayson, Boley, Clearview and Rentville. And others are en-route. Let us take courage and go forward.

The scheme of the organization of the town of Rentville was conceived by your humble servant on or about the first of Oct., 1903. I held a conference with I. J. Foster, W. D. Robinson, and Wm. Rentie; all of whom concurred with me. The result was a call to meet at the new Paradise Baptist church on the 20th day of October, 1903. During the meeting a resolution was adopted which carried with it the organization of a townsite company. Your humble servant was elected president; Rev. David Green, vice president; Wm. Rentie, secretary; W. D. Robinson, treasurer.

#### THE WORK.

We then began to cast about for a suitable place. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rentie kindly consented to set apart twenty acres of land for the beginning of a town, and Mrs. Phoebe McIntosh twenty making a total of forty acres. We honor them for the noble spirit manifested in making it possible for a town to be put in operation at this place. From time to time the company met to devise plans to promote the interests of the town. As the

work progressed the company was confronted with many obstructions.

#### THE RESTRICTION.

At the time of the new organization, the restriction was yet on the Freedmen's land. The enemies of the new movement took advantage of the opportunity, and did everything possible to impede the progress of the work. However, the few and faithful stood firm. The removal of restriction off the Freedmen's land by the Congress of the U. S. brought great relief to the company and friends of the enterprise. In spite of the opposition the work of building up the town has continued.

#### MERCHANTILE DEPARTMENT.

After several conferences with Prof. J. J. Hudson (then) of Coecotat, he finally consented to open business at this place. This was done about the first of February, 1904. We now have five business houses in the town, all of whom are doing a splendid business. Messrs. Wm. Rentie, J. J. Hudson, F. P. Pointer, G. W. Cooksey, and N. T. Williams are all carrying a splendid supply of goods. I would advise that you give them a fair and impartial trial before purchasing elsewhere.

#### POST OFFICE AND RAILWAY.

The post office in Rentville is a blessing to the town and community. Postmaster J. J. Hudson is the right place. We are very grateful to Supt. J. W. Walton for making Rentville a flag stop. We now have the accommodation of passenger trains Nos. 1 and 2, and local freight trains Nos. 541 and 542 each day.

#### SCHOOL AND CHURCH

As we assemble in this splendid hall, it reminds us that education and high civilization is the watch word at Rentville. Our school is in splendid condition, with an enrollment of 81, and yet they are coming. A nine months school is a fine opportunity for our boys and girls. Prof. C. R. Ross is a model teacher. The church is seeking to play its part as a religious organization, our aim is to do the bidding of the Master.

#### WATER FACILITIES.

Good water is a blessing to any town or community. Rentville has that advantage. A good well of water can be obtained in most any part of the

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